



## **House Republican High-Tech Working Group**

Congressman Bob Goodlatte, Chairman  
House Republican High-Tech Working Group

For the last decade, House Republicans have led the fight and promoted policies that best allow the high-tech community to grow and prosper.

### **Our Mission:**

- Help to pass significant legislative items that will promote our economic growth, improve our quality of life, and protect the security of our country.
- Educate House Republicans on the importance of the high-tech community to our economy and our standard of living.
- Communicate the efforts of House Republicans and our record of achievement.

### **A Strong Record Leading to Recovery – Real Results:**

The bursting of the Internet bubble and economic shockwaves of 9/11 had a terrible impact on the high-tech economy. House Republicans responded quickly to stimulate the economy and the results have been impressive. Spending on high-tech products immediately began to revive last year after passage of the first stimulus package and continue to improve as jobs are created and the economy grows. Three major pieces of legislation have been instrumental in stimulating the economy:

- Enactment of the first economic stimulus package in March of 2002 with accelerated depreciation as its centerpiece.
- Enactment of Trade Promotion Authority to help lead to dramatic reductions in trade barriers for high-tech products. Free trade agreements with Chile and Singapore were most recently passed and signed into law.
- Enactment of a second economic growth package in July of 2003 to reduce taxes on capital gains, dividends, and a further increase in depreciation of high-tech equipment.

### **A Record of Progress:**

We're continuing our efforts to help the high-tech sector create jobs and lead the economy into full recovery. House Republicans have already passed several additional pieces of legislation important to the well being of the

tech sector. We are working with the Senate to pass these various initiatives and continue to support the tech community.

- **Prevention of Identity Theft** – Passed legislation to provide all consumers with the tools they need to protect their credit and fight identity theft.
- **Internet Taxation** – Passage of a permanent ban on taxing access to the Internet (vote scheduled).
- **Class Action Fairness** – Passed legislation to rein in frivolous “Class Action” lawsuits that threaten the high-tech community.
- **Nanotechnology Research** – Authorized an increase in the basic research and development of nanotechnology.
- **Spectrum Enhancement** – Passed legislation to create incentives for clearing valuable spectrum so that more innovation in telecommunications can occur.

#### **Moving Forward – We Have Much More to Do:**

We are not through with our efforts to help create jobs and promote growth. We will continue our focus through a series of issues to help the high-tech community:

- **Ensuring Employee Stock Ownership Remains Viable** – We will vigilantly promote and protect the stock ownership and retirement security of high-tech’s rank and file employees.
- **Secure Our Investment and Human Capital** – We will continue to fundamentally reform our tax laws so that more jobs and investment remain and return to the U.S. economy.
- **Reduce Spam** - We will work to reduce or eliminate excessive unsolicited e-mail that is clogging the Internet.
- **Protect Intellectual Property from Digital Piracy** - We will make sure that we promote and enforce strong copyright and patent protection laws to prevent and combat the growing trend of digital piracy.
- **Collaborate with the Executive Branch and Various Departments to Protect Our Homeland** – We will help facilitate a seamless transition and transformation of our governmental entities that will foster information sharing and compatibility.
- **Develop More Secure Information Networks** – We will promote initiatives that help to better detect and respond to security threats.
- **Broadband Deployment** - We will continue to promote the acceleration of the deployment of broadband networks to all Americans.